SOUTH VIET NAM In Struggle

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editorial

WE SHALL FIGHT ON UNTIL THE YANKS QUIT AND THE QUISLINGS TOPPLE

THE curtain has fallen on the Saigon presidential race farce. The Thieu-Huong pair has won the walk-over. Juror Bunker has garlanded them and shown his satisfaction with a few pats on their heads and some lumps of sugar. Everything happened as expected without a hitch: voters had gone to the polls at gun and bayonet point, to cast their ballots for the single Thieu-Huong slate.

The novelty about the election this time was the replacement of Ky by Huong. As for the rest, no change. The same "four nays" position, the same carnage, the continuation of the letting of US and Vietnamese blood, the recurrence of medieval horrors. Newly-built tiger cages are made ready to receive anti-establishment people.

DRAWN by the pair, where will the "Vietnamization" carriage be able to go? The answer is self-evident. The very existence of the carriage and pair is an admission of failure. The old nags have been harnessed again for lack of better ones. Hectic efforts to hold a "contested" competition and to give some lustre to the pair's shabby pelage all come to grief, despite Bunker's dangling of the "carrot and stick." Nevertheless one result has been achieved: not the slightest doubt has remained as to the role of the US in the Saigon political life as omnipotent stage director and as to the true colours of the tandem in the saddle as its pliant placement and as to the hauling capacity of this couple of hacks.

Another consequence will inevitably ensue: the swelling of the ranks of the regime's opponents which already include workers, students, intellectuals, Buddhists, Catholics, Protestants, Caodaists, Hoa Haoists and even Saigon veterans, disabled and members of both "Houses."

Thieu has been returned to his seat now made crankier. The "heavy" poll has been trumpetted as a mark of "great confidence" of the voters, but no one will be taken in. Saigon skill in manipulating elections is no longer a secret. The "Supreme Court" suggestion to the executive to sack some province governors for their too transparent interference in the voting procedure and the "Senate" resolution urging the invalidation of the "House of Representatives" election returns are evidence damning enough against the ruling junta's frauds which have been raised to the level of an art. In view of all the sordid manoeuvres, overt and covert, during the preparatory stage and of the formidable deployment of troops and police during the voting, the high rate of turn-out was only an indication of a proportionate degree of deceptiveness.

To continue the simile, it is obvious that the path on which Mr Nixon's carriage and pair is jolting is growing bumpier and bumpier. What is in store for it is one of these eventualities: collapse, overturn or landing in a ditch.

A stronger light has been also shed by the last elections on the US President's stubbornness and truculence. They were part of an overall plan including atrocious rural "pacification," intensification and extension of the war aimed at securing a position of strength on the battlefield, the purpose of which is to vamp up a decaying regime, in order to win an advantageous posture at the conference table. Each protest demonstration, each beating inflicted on GI's, in Saigon and other South Vietnamese cities has been a blow at "Vietnamization," at the US proconsul and at the US Chief Executive himself. No claim to "defend freedom," no profession of "peace," no protestation of "respect for the other peoples' self-determination" can obscure the sinister image of the US as international gendarme, aggressor and arch enemy of the Vietnamese. Saigon press has made no bones about this: The US is bent on conducting this war

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FROM THE SAIGON PRESS

In recent days, the Saigon press has carried many articles, exposing the US imperialists' brutal aggressive nature and reflecting the South Vietnamese people's wish for an early US withdrawal from South Viet Nam. We are giving blow under some excerpts from these articles—Ed.

US imperialists' real nature

IN its interference in South Viet Nam, the US has never exposed its true colours as a colonialist and Western capitalist system more clearly than in the political and diplomatic events in August 1971 last.

The disclosure of the Pentagon's "secret documents" has shown the world and Viet Nam the whole "imperialist" nature of a war so far "idealized" as a "freedom, anti-communist" cruisade.

No pleas can help the US justify to the Vietnamese people its war objectives when its interests are placed before the Vietnamese people's ideals of freedom and self-determination. The secret documents have revealed the viciousness of the Indochinese war waged by US presidents from 1954 to 1971, while the Vietnamese people were believing in the US "generous" role with no suspicion of a "criminal back stage." At present, the whole world has clearly realized that the US has been wilfully making this war in disregard of the Vietnamese peopl'es aspirations, and of the most elementary principles on freedom and self-determination.

US interference in the political evolution, namely in the (Saigon—*Ed.*) presidential election in the Republic of Viet Nam [US-Saigon temporarily held areas] for the 1971-1975 term, has shown the US "juggler's" hand in every event to keep control. For fear that an independent political regime in the Republic of Viet Nam may put an end to all US influence, the US has been seeking all possible means to maintain in Saigon a leadership which implements all Washington's directives. Peace, war, democracy, freedom, self-determination..., all has to put on US trade-marks. Whoever or whatever regime wants to shed the disguise will be knocked out by the US until a new leadership is created in South Viet Nam.

All these imperialist manoeuvres have brought about the present political and leadership crisis in the Republic of Viet Nam.

Cong Luan (Public Opinion), September 11, 1971

It is time the US must leave Viet Nam

There are two reasons why the Americans should pull out from Viet Nam: the first is that they cannot win the current long and extremely expensive war. The second, more important, is the absence of any valid ground for its presence in South Viet Nam...

Since 1954, the US has been applying the following tactics to perpetuate its presence in South Viet Nam:

— The 1954-1963 period could be called the "advisory" period. The latter would up after the tragic death of the Ngo brothers, to whom the Americans were advisers.

— The 1963-1969 period was the one when the US prepared for the "Americanization" of the war. This plan was realized from 1965 and 1966 when the US massively dispatched troops to South Viet Nam. Till 1969, there were 543,000 GIs here, not including a few scores thousand satellite troops. But in 1968, the Mau Than offensive took place. The US Embassy was attacked right in the heart of Saigon and up to this year, the Americans have lost over 40,000 men killed and more than 20,000 others wounded in Viet Nam, and thousands of POWs and pilots are detained in North and South Viet Nam. These are most conservative figures produced by the *US News and World Report*. In the meantime, the US has spent about 200 billion dollars, without attaining any military objective.

From 1969 to 1971 has been taking place the "Vietnamization of the war" which was marked by the Cambodia and Laos inroads. In Cambodia, the Lon Nol regime rigged up by the US has been nodding to its doom. The massacres of our residents there aroused greatest indignation among the Vietnamese, an unmistakable outburst of which was the occupation of the Cambodian Embassy by Vietnamese students and pupils. That is why public opinion was ever more exasperated by their operation against Cambodia under the "Vietnamization" plan...

Through the operations against Lower Laos, the failure of the US "Vietnamization of the war" has proved to be ever patent. The operation was first codenamed "Operation Kachiom," but not long after perhaps as they thought that it was the period of "Vietnamization of the war," the name was hurriedly changed into "Operation Lam Son 719," undertaken under a plan and orders decided beforehand by the White House and directed by General Abrams, US Commander in Viet Nam.

US planes were downed over the Laos-Viet Nam borders like dead leaves. After facing complete isolation on the South-Laos battefield the "Vietnamized" troops had to beat a retreat. Militarily, what will the Americans do about their "Vietnamization of the war" plan after the Cambodian and Laos disasters? Politjcally, 1970 and 1971 can be called the "two years marking the complete collapse of the US "defend the freedom of South Viet Nam" signboard.

In 1969, the My Lai massacre was brought to light by US press. The whole world was shocked by the GIs' atrocities against innocent Vietnamese.

In 1971, the *New York Times* disclosed a secret document showing that the US had always been pursuing a war strategy in Indochina. The same papers revealed that the important developments which had extended the war such as the "Tonkin Gulf" incident, the prelude to the bombing of North Viet Nam, had been fully engineered by the US.

The My Lai mass-murder as well as the secret documents have completely unmasked the Americans as murders and fire-eaters. Since those revelations, the conviction in their ideals has been strengthened in those who have seen through the US mask. Those who have been boisterously pleading for the US have begun to feel uneasy when speaking about their allies. The exposure of the My Lai case and especially of the secret documents have been forceful eye-openers for many who were slow to understand.

US "pious mission" in the last few years was to "defend free South Viet Nam, help its allies resist aggression." But this mask has now been torn down when the classified papers were published by US press, especially when the American war veterans completely disapproved their former own actions in Viet Nam and threw down their medals in front of the Capitol.

In 1971, the Americans cannot give any plea for their presence in South Viet Nam. It is time for US opinion to check Nixon's frantic and futile attempt to save US prestige, lives and interests.

World public opinion surely will not remain silent if Nixon carries on his criminal deeds.

Therefore, it is safe to say that it is time the US pulled out all its troops from South Viet Nam.

Dien Tin (Express), September 3,1971

We shall fight on until...

(Continued from page 1)

against Viet Nam, in defiance of its people's wishes and of all elementary rights to freedom and self-determination" (Cong Luan *September* 11, 1971). *"In* 1971," *said another commentary, "the Americans can no longer invoke any justification for their presence in South Viet Nam. Public opinion in the US has grown alive to the necessity of baffling Nixon's aggressive policy, if US honour, lives and interests are to be saved..." If Senator Mansfield has made clear his abhorrence to see his hands remain blood-stained, the hawk number one Senator Goldwater has not hidden his and the Senate's disappointment at Mr Nixon's behaviour.*

The US President's political isolation and decline will deteriorate not only at home but also abroad, as a sequel of his Saigon electoral juggleries, and of the setbacks of his "Vietnamization," a war strategy designed to reverse a losing posture and to snatch victory out of defeat.

AS for the South Vietnamese, they have made up their minds aware, as the Saigonese have made plain, that "Thieu's continuation in office means continuation of the war" and that "Thieu's name is inseparable from bloodshed." They will fight on, as long as the US troops remain in South Viet Nam and Thieu is kept in power as willing tool of "Vietnamization." They will not lay down their arms, nor will their Cambodian and Lao brothers, until the Yanks quit and the quislings topple. This is the single purpose of the 14 *million South Vietnamese, of the* 30 *million Vietnamese, and of the* 50 *million Indochinese.*

SOUTH VIET NAM IN STRUGGLE

IN THE CITIES

o Recently thousands of Hue people took to the streets against an American MP arresting and manhandling a worker returning from his factory. Under pressure of his mates, the Yankee had to let him go.

o After the demonstration of 300 Lambretta drivers against an American "road hog" killing six passengers of a bus in front of the Long Binh base, on the afternoon of September 17, the members of the Lambretta T.U. organization at Bien Hoa staged another rally demanding that the Yankees put an end to their overbearing behaviour and pay damages. Through their representatives, the Bien Hoa Lambretta drivers threatened to go on strike and launch a *burn American cars* drive if they did not get satisfaction.

o On the afternoon of September 20, over 200 female workers of the "Shrimp" vermicelli firm held an extraordinary protest meeting against the arbitrary sacking of two women-workers and urged that the enterprise boost their wages by 20 per cent and provide them with medical attention in case of illness.

o The Saigon Teachers' Association has sent to the "Supreme Court" a petition condemning the Thieu clique for turning schools into polling-stations for the October 3 rigged elections; it demanded that these establishments be instead restored to the pupils' use.

o After the Thieu clique's cracking down on the students at the Minh Mang university quarters and the Van Hanh institute resulting in many wounded, Huynh Tan Mam, president of the Saigon Students' General Association declared: "With the backing of all sections of the people, from now on, the students and pupils are resolved to wage a do-or-die battle against the Nguyen Van Thieu fascist administration."

The *Popular Front for Peace* in Saigon made a statement scoring the savage repression of the Thieu clique against the Van Hanh and Minh Mang students and pressing for the release of Mme Ngo Ba Thanh and all the school-youth still in jail and an end to terror against them.

o Recently Reverend Father Le Trung Nghia, head of a seminary, has come out strongly against the trumped up charge of the Saigon Police Superintendent that the vicar in charge of the Redemptorist church in Saigon had made an attack on that establishment while Senator McGovern was having an interview with the *Committee for a Better Penitentiary Regime*. He also castigated the fascist repressive measures taken by the Thieu administration against the Catholics.

Anti US-Thieu agitation kept up in Saigon and other cities

WAVE after wave, the turbulence against US-Thieu, for peace, independence, welfare and democracy of various sections of the people continues mounting in Saigon and other cities of South Viet Nam.

Most striking were the last September actions against cooked elections, against Thieu's single candidature, for Thieu's resignation, for an early and total US troop pull-out and Bunker's recall.

As the election day drew near, the campaign gained in effervescence. Not a day passed by without demonstrations and meetings with a larger number of participants. Anti-US-Thieu posters, banners and leaflets appeared in all streets.

The motive force of this tumultuous drive was a large front, the "People's Front Against Election Frauds," embracing not only workers, youths, students and pupils, but also people from other social sections, prominent personalities, intellectuals, writers, pressmen, industrialists and traders and religious believers. Saigon war invalids, MPs, armymen and administrative personnel, members of opposition parties, former supporters of Thieu and even the present Vice-President Nguyen Cao Ky and retired General Duong Van Minh also joined in the protest.

In Saigon, the "People's Front against Election Frauds" was made up of a very large force of 65 political organizations. Even in both "Houses" of the Saigon "congress", "Committees Against Rigged Elections" were also founded by a number of MPs.

The slogans put up by the protesters best suited the practical situation in each stage of the struggle. Besides demands for social welfare, democracy, improved living conditions, watchwords against US aggression, for US troop-withdrawal, against Thieu's fascist and dictatorial measures, against doctored elections, for US abandonment of Thieu... were chanted or posted up everywhere.

In response to Thieu's brazen tricks and use of his whole police machinery and to Generals Duong Van Minh and Nguyen Cao Ky's boycott of the "presidential election," such slogans as "Thieu resign!", "Bunker go home!", "No one-horse race!", "Fair and democratic election!" were seen in all parts.

In Saigon, Hue, Da Nang, Can Tho, Quy Nhon and other cities, series of demonstrations, meetings and teach-ins broke out. Students and pupils of all colleges and secondary schools and other sections of the people turned out in the streets, picketed the US Embassy, the "Independence Palace," the Saigon "House of Representatives," or paraded through the main thoroughfares, burned election cards, Thieu in effigy, tore off posters of the Thieu-Huong ticket. They hurled incendiary bombs into the US Embassy, shouting aloud: "Cancel the October 3 election!", "Down with the US aggressors!", "Down with dictator Nguyen Van Thieu!" ... The protesters openly denounced US "Vietnamization" whose essence is to prolong the aggressive war, the source of all sufferings and mourning for the South Vietnamese people. They also laid bare Thieu's traitorous and odious nature, and likened his "four nays" position to a "no rice, no clothes, no house, no home" watchword.

A polling-booth in Saigon on October 3, 71

Together with the aforesaid movement, the students and pupils' actions against Thieu's "militarization of schools" have also been gaining momentum. The General Association of Saigon Students castigated in a statement the said program as a scheme to impress youths to die in Americans' stead. Defying the Saigon Defence Ministry's order, the draftees resolutely refused to go to Quang Trung Camp. Collective hunger strikes of students and pupils were staged for the immediate cancellation of the project.

Under the impact of the protest increasingly backed by public opinion in Saigon, the "Senate National Defence Committee" had to issue on September 11 a communique urging the Saigon Defence Ministry to immediately stop the "militarization of schools" program pending a new bill.

To counter their bosses' exacting and draconian measures such as wage-cuts, lay-offs, workers in Saigon and other South Viet Nam cities have put up vigorous fights for welfare, democratic liberties and better living conditions. They strongly denounced the enterprises' owners, shielded by US-Thieu, for refusing to meet their legitimate claims. Those waves of demonstrations and strikes inflicted heavy financial losses. Such a reaction of over 1,000,000 workers and employees of private enterprises and offices in South Viet Nam cities had forced the Thieu clique to temporarily suspend the cutting of wages and to promise satisfaction of their demands.

THE "burning US vehicles and beating up GIs" drive launched by the General Association of Saigon Students has been warmly responded to by almost all the pupils and students of colleges and secondary schools throughout South Viet Nam and welcomed by other sections of the people. As a result, the US commanders had to order the cities out of bounds to US cars and crowded places to GIs. Especially in Hue, tens of thousands of American troops and personnel were 100% confined to quarters.

LARGE numbers of disabled armymen in Saigon and other cities also held marches, hunger strikes and self-immolations for the same purpose. Despite bans confiscations and fines, the Saigon press continues publishing commentaries and articles baring US-Thieu election farces. 38 among 42 papers in Saigon opposed Thieu's "one-horse race," ridiculing him as election organiser, sole candidate and returning officer rolled into one, and his ballot as "the weirdest in the history of elections in the free world."

Thieu's use of all his powers against the opposition parties in an attempt to place his men in the "House of Representatives" and monopolize the Saigon presidential seat triggered a strong reaction from political parties, religious believers and MPs. Most of the religious communities like Buddhists, Catholics, Cao Dais and Hoa Haos held teach-ins, published strong statements against the October 3 presidential election and declared non recognition of the latter's results. Representatives of Catholic students and pupils massed in front of the Bishopric, holding posters, burning election cards and singing peace songs in protest of Thieu's dictatorial regime.

A teach-in was jointly convened by representatives of political parties, religions and a number of Saigon MPs against the manipulated election and the US role in the hoax.

In a parade in front of the Saigon "House of Representatives" on August 18, 30 opposition MPs and politicians denounced Thieu for "declaring war on the people" and called for the "foiling of all Thieu's dictatorial and traitorous schemes." Under popular pressure, two thirds of the "House" deputies decided to demand that Thieu invalidate the results of the August 29 election. On August 29, the Saigon Senate also pressed for Thieu's resignation, cancellation of the October 3 election, nullification of the "House" election returns in 12 provinces and sacking of the latter's governors.

In protest against Thieu's "one-man" farce, on September 29, a large number of Saigon MPs and many political organizations and religious bodies once again set up a "Co-ordinating Committee against Dictator Nguyen Van Thieu."

In a statement, retired General Duong Van Minh said: "If the presidential election is held on October 3 under the present conditions, South Viet Nam's (Thieu's regime — *Ed.*) image will be damaged in the world, and the South Viet Nam regime will lose all democratic and legal basis. Such a regime cannot represent the people, cannot end the war and restore peace, and can only exist by clinging to foreign countries."

ARMED by the South Vietnamese people's widespread dissent, Thieu has been resorting to savage repression and terror. On his orders, Saigon police agents hurled tear-gas handgrenades on marchers, arrested and manhandled hundreds of them, and even shot dead many. On September 22, Thieu ordered his police to "shoot on the spot" whoever acted against them. Thieu has proved to be a fascist butcher, and his "democracy" and "serve the people for another term" mask has been pulled off.

The US-Thieu manoeuvres are likely to pour more oil on the fire. People of all walks of life in South Viet Nam, braving the enemy persecution and brutalities, will step up their struggle, further isolate the US imperialists and the Nguyen Van Thieu clique, and aggravate their present political crisis. As remarked by Western press, the present political crisis is the most damaging setback of the US-Thieu, and the political collapse of Nixon's "Vietnamization of the war" plan.

In September

"Priority Pacification Areas" Put To A Hard Test

FOLLOWING shattering punches at the adverse defence network on Highway 9 and in northern Quang Tri, the PLAF started a series of offensives against the Saigon regular forces. Fighting in the U Minh jungle, western Nam Bo, is still raging. While taking the enemy unawares on the forefront right after their landing, liberation troops assailed regiment CPs in the rear, inflicting heavy losses in manpower and material. In four successive days beginning Sept. 14, 1,500 men, mostly of Division 21, were put out of action, 19 aircraft shot down or set afire and 6 warships destroyed or sent to the bottom. Vehicles and a sizeable quantity of arms and ammunition including 12 heavy guns were put out of commission, the heaviest enemy losses in a single combat day (*UPI*) since the invasion of Southern Laos in March this year, and the most smarting blow in the third phase of the inroad into the U Minh jungle.

In the provinces of East Nam Bo and on the lifelines around Saigon, liberation infantry and artillery have been very active. They stormed CPs of Saigon units like Division 18 and multi-battalion 43, and many airfields and logistical bases in Tay Ninh, Bien Hoa provinces and even in the vicinity of Saigon. Staging areas came also under violent assaults; those of multi-battalion 50 and battalion 73 were razed on Sept. 25 night and, as a result, 200 men knocked out, 16 vehicles destroyed, several ammunition and petrol dumps set afire. Meanwhile the PLAF chopped off important communication lines. The situation was really bad as a Western agency reported that the Communists cut off lifeline No 22, their shellings destroyed all artillery pieces in the Hung Dao base, and an infantry battalion defending this base was on their last rations.

Guerillas and regional troops in East Nam Bo pose a heavy threat to many areas that the US and Saigon commands claim to have "pacified." The local population, with the support of liberation armed forces have recovered control in a series of uprisings.

Military activities flared up again in the Western High Plateaux. From Aug. 25 to Sept. 25 guerillas and regional troops wiped out or captured 750 enemy men and destroyed 62 military vehicles. Strategic arteries especially Highways 14 and 19 were submitted to the continuous attacks of the PLAF and controlled by them on vital portions. Despite precautionary measures, US-Saigon troops have been unable to prevent devastating thrusts of liberation forces on Highway 9 and west of Quang Tri and Thua Thien provinces. The naval base at Cua Viet, the arsenal at Ai Tu, the CP of US Airborne Division 101, etc. were hard hit: the arms dump was burnt down and plenty of war materials destroyed.

ON the anti-pacification front, popular drives have erupted uninterruptedly and with particular effervescence. Guerilla warfare has been strongly developing in "priority pacification areas." In My Tho province for instance, in close coordination with 10,000 civilians, liberation troops assailed 30 positions and bases on Sept. 20 night, breaking the enemy's grip and punishing a number of wicked agents. In the first 20 days of September, 40,000 inhabitants penned up in "strategic hamlets" and resettlement zones rose up against the local puppet authorities; 200 families left for their native villages. In other provinces of the Mekong Delta, liberation troops and the population, in concerted actions, razed series of garrisons and forced others to move away. Through persuasion work, the population disintegrated a substantial number of "civil guards" units and won over hundreds of troops from the Saigon army.

In the plains of Trung Bo (Central Viet Nam) where the US-quislings have been striving to bring "pacification" to fruition in 1971, guerilla warfare has been steadily expanding. Said the *International Herald Tribune* of Sept. 19: the coastal provinces of the central part of South Viet Nam, regarded as populated areas, are not yet controlled by the Saigon government. Since late August liberation regulars, regionals and guerillas have been operating everywhere, destroying or heavily damaging some 20 bases and positions and putting about 3,000 men out of action (7 companies and 20 platoons completely written off). In addition, the PLAF shot down 20 planes, blasted out of commission 220 military vehicles and a large quantity of other war means. Guerillas and regional troops also destroyed a number of garrisons in population resettlement zones, "strategic hamlets," the periphery of urban centres and along communication lines. As a result, the puppet administrative machine continues to disintegrate, and the pacification program in Central and Southern Trung Bo has suffered serious setbacks.

In sum, "priority pacification areas" or allegedly "pacified" regions were put to a hard test in September.

T.T.

V. Guerillas, A Collective of Heroes

V. has been ploughed time and again by shellings and bombings, map-coordinate bombings included. Few days have passed without bomb or shell explosions. It seems that enemy garrisons and gun positions on surrounding heights and warships off the coast constantly poise their guns against this village of Quang Binh province.

Without the advantage of a rugged terrain, V. possesses courageous and resourceful people and guerillas who stick to their land and staunchly defend it. The adversary always have to pay a high price for their incursions.

ONE night big fires flared up in the neighbourhood, and deafening detonations resounded far away. At an emergency meeting the leadership assessed the situation: liberation troops had launched an attack; to cope with it the enemy might start a sweep in the village right away.

In fact, when the fires died down shellings began converging on V. from several directions, with increasing intensity toward the morning. Thick smoke hang all over the place.

As soon as the sun had risen over the sea, the roaring of military vehicles became clearer and clearer. The guerillas hurriedly prepared for a counter-raid action.

On hearing the nearing rumble of tanks Chi set out looking for the village militia chief. A leading cadre at twenty, he had been in the anti-US resistance for several years. By noon, contrary to everyone's expectation, the enemy did not turn up. With the three-man scouting group, militia head Tu kept a vigilant look-out. He was an experienced military cadre who had fought against the French.

"It looks as if they won't come at all," Chi said.

"Let everyone keep his eyes skinned," Tu ordered. "All our comrades should make adequate preparations. They may spring a surprise attack to-morrow or after tomorrow."

"I too think so."

After nightfall the adversary resumed their pounding. Tu and Chi went from one group to another for a last check. They did it with all the greater care as this sandy enclave had been the target of everyone of the enemy operations.

In the moonlight, Chi took off his shirt and had a pow wow with his comrades in hamlet 1. Surveying his forces and their equipment consisting especially of home-made bombs, hamlet head Quy said:

"We can hold out against a whole battalion."

As a matter of fact, everyone, believed that the ambush site was as solid as Quy's tone was confident

Adverse guns thundered for the last time at 4.00 AM, Chi, Quy and another comrade of hamlet 1 went down into an underground shelter to discuss defence plans.

All of a sudden a submachinegun volley was let off behind them. A guerilla fired back and shouted at the top of his voice to warn his mates:

"Enemy scouters' attack!"

Disguised as liberation soldiers, they had moved in from a neighbouring height after crossing a river. With a round the look-out mowed down five of them. The remnants were swiftly wiped out by the guerillas.

At dawn the ground of the village seemed to shake at the noise of the incoming raiders' guns. They made their irruption in two prongs, more than a battalion strong.

Deputy militia chief Thi's home-made bombs exploded one after another, stopping the aggressors' advance.

In hamlet 2, a group fiercely contended with GIs for a hill. With a tommy gun and hand grenades, Hung repelled three successive assaults by Americans armed with flame-throwers, killing more than ten. Against the four guerillas, the enemy unleashed a whole company and more tanks. While covering the retreat of his comrade, Le Tien Duc was wounded. He wrote these words in blood on his shirt: *I'm ready to die for the fatherland to live.* He knocked down 6 GIs with his last explosive charge before dying.

Thanks to their numerical superiority, the intruders succeeded in seizing the hill. Immediately they came under the mortar fire of Nguyen Thi No, the girl deputy militia head: a dozen or so fell on the sand. A chopper spotted her and dived in an attempt to silence the mortar. But his in the nose by guerillas' shells, it caught fire and took to flight to plummet into the sea a few minutes later. Then the enemy withdrew from the hamlet.

In hamlet 3, Tu directed the fight against a group of tanks. He managed to lure them into the ambush site. Land mines blew up two of them, forcing the remainder and ground troops marching behind them to change their route. Then they were caught by the guerillas' cross-fire and had no other alternative than to flee in disorder to their base.

V. guerillas is a collective credited with some 400 fights, the destruction of nearly 1,300 enemy troops and 64 vehicles, the downing of many planes and helicopters, and the capturing of a fairly large quantity of equipment. It has recently been awarded the title of "heroic unit" by the PRG of the Republic of South Viet Nam.

From the paper **Quan Giai Phong** (*Liberation Army*)

East Nam Bo People's Successes

THE battle was raging in East Nam Bo. "Saigon is again under Viet Cong rocketing," said an American high-ranking officer to an *AFP* correspondent in Saigon after the two PLAF bombardments of Tan Son Nhut airbase and Quang Trung military training centre (Saigon). Despite all Abrams's efforts to build a solid defence line around Saigon, the aggressiveness of the patriotic forces has been rapidly growing in the periphery of the big city.

Since early 1971, the East Nam Bo front has undergone great changes. Not only did the liberation forces there efficiently coordinate action with those of Cambodia in foiling Operation "Total victory 1-71," but they also have repeatedly hammered at the enemy points d'appui on the perimeter around Saigon.

On May 19 and 25, the PLAF in Tay Ninh province (on the defence line north of Saigon) delivered to the enemy two staggering punches, wiping out nearly 350 adverse troops and destroying 89 tanks and armoured cars. On May 31, the day Saigon units licked the dust at Snuol (Northeastern Cambodia) and fled in confusion back to South Viet Nam, the liberation forces badly mauled two Saigon battalions on Highway 13.

In June 1971, the PLAF in Tay Ninh province overran the signal centre on Ba Den mountain (1,000 metres above sea level), and on June 19, those in Thu Dau Mot province stormed the CP of puppet 49th Regiment at Dau Tieng, about 65km north of Saigon, taking a toll of over 400 enemy lives and destroying 12 military vehicles, and attacked another base at Phu Loi, 22km from Saigon, wiping out hundreds of enemy soldiers and burning 3 fuel and ammunition depots. The enemy admitted that they had been taken unaware by these fierce onsets. Though the wet season began in July and August, military activities did not abate in Tay Ninh and the other 5 provinces around Saigon in that period.

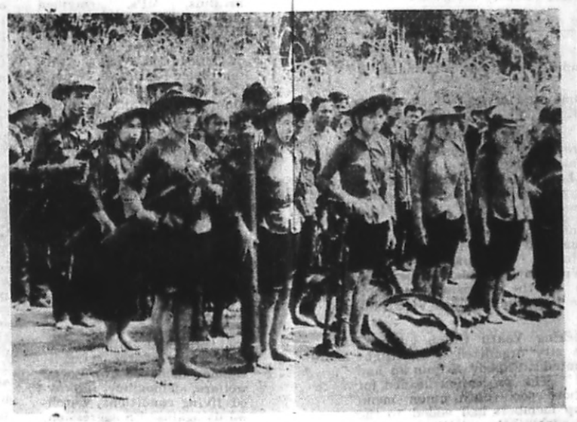
The PLAF raid on Trang Lon (Tay Ninh) inflicted enemy 200 casualties (mostly officers, US advisors and technicians), destroyed 5 aircraft, 22 military vehicles, 100 underground shelters and blockhouses. The US command had to evacuate all the helicopters stationed there to the periphery of Saigon as the puppet troops were not able to see to the security of the helicopter coumpounds built in these localities. The military sub-sector at Trang Bang 45km north of Saigon, was virtually flattened, shaking the whole enemy defence system in this area. Other bases in Tay Ninh were repeatedly assaulted. Many adverse army units were whittled down in "pacification" operations in the provinces bordering on Saigon. In the first 8 months of 1971, the regional PLAF in Cu Chi district, Gia Dinh province, close to Saigon, put out of action 2,000 enemy men, and wrecked 250 military vehicles, foiling the "pacification" plan in that area. Many airfields, bases and military training centres in the vicinity of Saigon were under PLAF attack. The war brought near to Saigon has compounded the enemy confusion.

THE stepped-up activities and frequent successes of the East Nam Bo PLAF in the last few months have greatly upset the enemy defence line around Saigon. For nearly two years, the US command has fielded hundreds of battalions, built a dense network of posts and blockhouses and mounted series of "sweeps" in this area, especially in East Nam Bo, and turned it into a "no man's land." Its aircraft displayed a greater activity, regularly spraying defoliants on the farmland and on what remains of the jungle in East Nam Bo. Tanks and bulldozers were used to level ricefield dykes and obstacles, creating immense flat areas so as to facilitate the observation of the PLAF movements and to call for prompt support of aircraft, armour and artillery. "Pacification" in this area was brought to the highest level of ferocity. There have been swarms of spies, commandos "Phoenix" and "pacification" agents ready to repress, arrest and murder patriots and revolutionaries.

All the plots and efforts of the enemy were aimed at driving the war far from Saigon and forestalling PLAF attacks from a distance. Nevertheless, developments on this front have shed light on the US and its quisling heavy setbacks. Their fierce raids and crafty manoeuvres cannot get the upper hand of the resolve to fight and win of the East Nam Bo people who have become more and more destructive. The enemy defence line has been breached in many localities.

The East Nam Bo people and armed forces' gains around Saigon over the past few months have been greatly responsible for the thwarting of the enemy "pacification" program and recrudescence of political actions of the inhabitants of Saigon and other towns and cities in South Viet Nam.

T. P.



One of the outstanding woman-guerilla units in Long An province

More on Big Success of PLAF in U MINH Area

THE armed forces and people in the U Minh jungle region in the week ending September 20 repeatedly attacked the US-puppet troops nibbling at the liberated zones, killing or wounding more than 2,000 enemy troops including many GIs and Saigon puppet officers and capturing many enemy soldiers.

In terms of units, they wiped out two regimental headquarters, 2 battalions, 7 companies and one river fleet, and heavily trounced 2 regimental headquarters, 3 battalions and 5 companies.

They brought down 27 aircraft, wrecked 5 M.113 armoured troop carriers, 19 artillery pieces and dozens of mortars and heavy machineguns, and seized hundreds of firearms and a large quantity of other military equipment.

Intercepting enemy reinforcements on September 17, the liberation forces knocked out 2 companies and heavily trounced another company of the 4th Battalion, 31st Regiment, Saigon puppet 21st Division. On the night of the same day, they knocked out another company of this regiment in a surprise attack.

The following morning, they wiped out another company of the same regiment. Intercepting 2 enemy fleets on Song Tram river the liberation forces sank 7 vessels and set ablaze 4 others. Meanwhile, anti-aircraft units shot down 5 enemy aircraft and damaged 4 others. At the same time, the PLAF shelled the Thoi Binh military sub-sector and a basecamp of the same regiment in Bien Bach village, knocking down many enemy, and wrecking 4 105mm howitzers.

In Kien Phong province, in the Plain of Reeds, on the night of September 20, the liberation forces razed the Cau Muong position, killing or wounding more than 60 enemy troops, captured 6 others and seized 11 weapons. Meanwhile, the regional forces and guerillas encircled most of the enemy positions along the So Thuong defence line.

In Soc Trang province, on the night of September 26, the regional forces of Vinh Loi district destroyed the Nang Ren post guarded by one enemy platoon, capturing 6 enemy and seizing 15 firearms and a quantity of other military equipment.

IN OUR LIBERATED ZONE

Information and culture in service of anti-"pacification" work

The Information and Culture Committee in Central Nam Bo has held a conference to review its work in the first half of 1971. The gathering highly valued the fighting spirit of all the its members who had valiantly overcome all diffculties and supplied the people with the revolutionary ideological weapon to foil the US-Thieu psy-warfare, mobilized the people to actively push up the anti-US national cause.

Laying down tasks for the branch for the remaining 6 months of the year, it underlined the mustering of force to thwart the US-Saigon "pacification" plan with a view to serving the building and development of the revolutionary force, promptly unmasking all the enemy deceptive propaganda ploys.

More medical workers trained in West Nam Bo

The medical service in West Nam Bo has recently trained 48 more middle-level medical workers.

This was the 8th batches so far graduated in the region West Nam Bo now has thousands of doctors, physicians and nurses scattered throughout the area to help the people's production and combat.

5-volunteer movement forges ahead in Rach Gia

After two years of promoting the 5-*volunteer* emulation movement, the youths in Rach Gia have recorded outstanding achievements. Almost all the young men and women in the province have taken an active part in the building of fighting villages and hamlets. They have planted 100,000 pointed stakes or booby traps, laid nearly 4,000 mines or hand grenades, dug over 3,000 shelters, erected over 1,200 barricades, built more than 800 combat grounds and 500 anti-air gun sites.

Thousands of youths in Rach Gia have enrolled in the liberation army, tens of thousands of others have been active in the guerilla movement.

The Rach Gia youths have also served as the motive force of the people's movement against the US-Saigon "pacification," defend their right to be masters of their land and broaden and consolidate the liberated zone.

Educational cultural and artistic activities stepped up in Tra Vinh and North Gia Dinh

In Tra Vinh province, the revolutionary power in Cau Ngang, Tra Cu and Cau Ke districts have actively overcome the consequences arising from enemy air raids and continued to supply education to the Khmer nationality people's children. 55 more classes have been opened and over 1,000 pupils have been enrolled for the 1971-1972 school year.

The revolutionary administration in the said districts have also organized a number of supplementary education or mass education courses for the Khmer nationals.

In North Gia Dinh, the shock song and dance ensemble defied enemy massive bombings and shellings in August and September 1971 to perform on the bordering areas of Cu Chi district for the people, guerilla and liberation army. Its repertory illustrated in time the impetus in the fight and the building of the regional armed forces as well as the people's stirring resistance against the enemy "pacification" plan.

Cameraman Hong Chi, maker of the film **Going up the line**

The young Liberation cinema

AS the sun war setting behind the Chu Lay range, sounds of gongs and horns from H'ray and surrounding villages reverberated in the mountains and jungles. They were not the signal of an alert to warn against the appearance of the enemy, they were to call the people to gather on a grass land lying between the *xanu* forest and the *Hing river* to see the film *Hunters on mount Dak Sao*, a documentary film newly produced by *Giai Phong (Liberation) Studios*.

Teams of guerillas armed with rifles and knives day and night hunt American choppers, crossing springs and rivers. Daksao is one of the sites of the exploits of A Cuu's team: by a volley of infantry rifle, they down two US helicopters. The war booty includes two helicopter propeller blades which eventually serve as blackboards for the village's primary school. The school teacher, a M'nong girl, writes on one of the blackboards these verses for her pupils to learn:

The Yanks' choppers blasted to pieces,
Our schools open again, and our sky is a hyaline anew.

As the film show ended, a prolonged applause broke out, a deserving reward for cameramen Kopar Yvang and Tran The Dan, and also for A Cuu's guerilla team, in acknowledgement of their exploits on the Tay Nguyen highlands.

The film *Hunters on mount Dak Sao* was shown to the public on the anniversary of the August Revolution and also to mark the beginning of the eleventh year of *Giai Phong (Liberation) Studios* founded in December 1961.

It is one of the 11 prize-winning reportage and documentary films at international film festivals in Moscow 1963, 1965, 1967, 1969, 1971, Leipzig 1965, 1966, 1969, 1970, Djakarta 1964, Phnom Penh 1969... The others are:

— We are forced to take up arms — South Viet Nam — Dong Xoai in flames — Determined to defeat the US aggressors — The Cu Chi guerillas — The belt rice — Going up the line — Arts and the youth — The Long An woman gunners—The peasants of my village—Hunters on mount Dak Sao.

South Vietnamese films have also earned awards in Viet Nam: the 1965 *Nguyen Dinh Chieu* prize offered by the South Viet Nam NFL, the *Golden Lotus* and *Silver Lotus* prizes offered by the 1970 Hanoi Film Festival. At the latter film festival, 39 South Vietnamese reportages and documentary films were commended. They had been produced between 1960 and 1970, at a time when all technical facilities for films production were lacking due to the war. Nevertheless, production went on at a rate of 7-10 films per year with thousands of copies for the public at home and abroad.

For South Viet Nam's cinema workers, no day passes by without bomb explosions, but with the will of fighters and the passion of artists, they have been displaying great courage in the fight for the liberation of their country. Cinema workers follow in the steps of PLAF men in the fire of battle. They wade across streams with army carriers, dog the silent guides, live with guerillas in areas bordering on occupied cities, or with the hard-working peasants set on growing rice, maize and potato on "no-man's lands" around enemy posts. They are present in classes held in underground shelters. They are never parted with their guns, cameras and projectors. They may have to get rid of an adverse soldier to secure a foothold from where to shoot a fighting scene. They may have to help the PLAF men or the guerillas beat off enemy sweeps against a village or a hamlet just to be able to entertain the peasants at night with a film show.

The momentous realities of South Viet Nam's revolution have been supplying the cinema workers with rich themes. Under the leadership of the Information and Culture Commission of the NFL Central Committee, now of the Culture Ministry of the Provisional Revolutionary Governement, the *Giai Phong (Liberation) Studios* and the *Quan Giai Phong* (Liberation Army) *Studios* though newly founded are exerting all efforts to fulfill their tasks and live up to the praises given South Vietnamese cinema by the world film makers' circles—"as for their content and quality, Liberation films have achieved all international standards." (1)

MINH PHUONG

(1) New Times *(USSR) No* 9-1965.

THE DRVN IN BRIEF

• Under its Chairman Truong Chinh, the Standing Committee of the National Assembly of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam met on September 29, 1971 to hear the report on the friendship visit of its Delegation to the Soviet Union, Poland, Czechoslovakia and Romania.

At the same meeting, the assembly decided to confer the "Hero of the People's Armed Forces" title on 15 units and 9 fighters credited with distinguished services.

• A delegation of the Standing Committee of the DRVN National Assembly led by its Vice-Chairman Tran Dang Khoa toured flood-stricken areas. It visited the victims and commended the local inhabitants and cadres for their endeavour to combat the calamity and restore production.

o The workers of the Quang Ninh mining area have made a plan to be implemented by the end of 1971:

— put in eight Sundays without overtime pay

— save materials, equipment and food

— overfulfil the 1971 plan by 5 per cent in addition to the 20 per cent increase decided early this year, in order to help do away rapidly with the aftermaths of the recent floods.

Thus the miners' overtime production will equal that of a whole quarter of 1971.

Militiamen at Ha Lam mine in an aircraft shooting drill

• The mountainous provinces have sent an extra supply of over 5,000 buffaloes and the provinces of Son La, Nghia Lo, Lai Chau, Lang Son and Thanh Hoa over 3,200 tons of maize seeds to the flood-stricken areas.

• The Hanoi Administrative Committee and the Viet Nam Fatherland Front municipal branch held a meeting warmly welcoming the Heroic Units and Heroes and Heroines of the South Viet Nam People's Liberation Armed Forces just cited by the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam.

o The Ho Chi Minh Working Youth Union group of ward No 4 in Nam Dinh city organized a torchlight tattoo in which they chanted: "Ready to join up and fight the US aggressors!" The procession headed for the recruiting centre where 500 youth union members and self defence group members had added to the end of their applications the inscription: "We are ready. Please take us in right now."

AGREEMENT ON ECONOMIC AND MILITARY BETWEEN DRVN AND CHINA

AT the invitation of the Government of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam, an economic delegation of the Government of the People's Republic of China headed by Li Hsien-nien, Vice-Premier of the State Council of the PRC, paid a friendly visit to the DRVN from September 24 to 28, 1971.

During its stay there, the delegation was received by Le Duan, First Secretary of the Central Committee of the Viet Nam Workers' Party, and Pham Van Dong, Premier of the DRVN Government.

It called at the DRVN Ministry of National Defence, the President Ho Chi Minh home, Hai Phong city and a number of economic, cultural..., establishments.

Everywhere, it was warmly welcomed by workers and farmers, cadres and people of North Viet Nam.

On September 25, it held talks with the DRVN Government economic delegation.

An agreement on China's non-repayable economic and military aid to Viet Nam for 1972 was signed on September 27 by Vice-Premier of China Li Hsien-nien and Le Thanh Nghi, Vice-Premier of the DRVN Government.

On September 24, at the DRVN Government reception in the guests' honour, the Chinese Vice-Premier said: "To assist the Vietnamese people's resistance against US aggression, for national salvation, the Chinese people will not shrink even from the greatest national sacrifice. Such is our country's unswerving position, a code of conduct for the action of the entire Chinese people." On September 28, in his speech at the farewell party, Vice-Premier Li Hsien-nien pointed out: The freshly signed agreement aid to Viet Nam has once again supplied a proof of the great friendship and revolutionary solidarity among the comrades-in-arms in our two countries.

The paper *Nhan Dan*, central organ of the Viet Nam Workers' Party, editorially thanked on September 29, the Communist Party, the Government and the people of China for their great support and aid to Viet Nam: "The agreement just signed with China and the visit of the Chinese Government Economic Delegation will vigorously stimulate the people and armed forces of Viet Nam to rush ahead and win other signal successes and complete victory over the US aggressors while impelling socialist construction in North Viet Nam."

26 COURAGEOUS AND FRUITFUL YEARS OF THE LAO REVOLUTION

26 years ago, on October 12, 1945, the first Lao Provisional Independent Government appeared before the Lao people in Vientiane and solemnly declared to the world Lao independence and sovereignty.

It was the remarkable outcome of the Lao people's unyielding and persistent effort against aggression since the founding of their country and of the resistance against the French colonialists for nearly 60 years.

Only 4 months after the event, the French colonialists, with US and British assistance, again invaded Laos, hoping to reimpose their rule over this country.

But the Lao people true to their national tradition rallied around the Resistance Coalition Government and the Neo Lao Issala headed by Prince Souphanouvong and put up a stiff resistance. Standing by the Vietnamese and Cambodian peoples' side, the valiant Lao army and people succesfully confrouted the enemy for nearly 9 years.

In 1954, after their major defeat in Dien Bien Phu, the French colonialists had to sign the 1954 Geneva Agreements, which recognized the independence, sovereignty, unity and territorial intergrity of Viet Nam, Laos and Cambodia.

HARDLY had the French colonialists withdrawn from Laos when the US international gendarme jumped in to occupy their place.

Once again, the Lao people rose up against foreign intervention.

For 17 years now, the US imperialists have been waging an extremely ruthless" "special war" to turn Laos into one of their a new-type colonies and military bases.

12,000 American advisers and military personnel, 70,000 Vientiane troops, 20,000 Vang Pao bandits and dozens of battalions of Thai mercenaries, have been dragging Laos through fire and sword.

The past 17 years have witnessed a process of constant sabotage of the agreements reached among the parties in Laos, continued subversive activities, coups d'état and the setting up of a reactionary and traitorous administration in Laos by the US aggressors.

The Lao revolution has undergone excruciating trials, but it has been steadily surging ahead and the revolutionary forces powerfully developing.

In the period under review, the Lao patriotic armed wiped out more than 160,000 enemy troops, captured nearly 70,000 firearms, shot down or destroyed nearly 20,000 US aircraft.

Especially, in the recent past, the Laos army and people have scored tremendous achievements. In 1970, they shattered US Operation "Ku Kiet." putting out of action 30,000 enemy troops, knocking down or wrecking 375 aircraft. In early 1971, the Lao patriotic forces, in coordinated actions with the South Viet Nam Liberation Armed Forces, completely foiled the aggressive operation conducted by the US and Saigon troops in the Highway 9-Khe Sanh-Southern Laos area, killing or wounding a total of 15,400 adverse men, downing or destroying 496 aircraft.

In the past 17 year, the Lao liberated zone from only 2 provinces held by the Pathet Lao Army since 1954 (Sam Nuea and Phongsaly) has now extended to over two thirds of the whole territory in a stretch from North to South and with half of the total population.

Under a 3-year construction plan (1968-1970) the Lao people built nearly 1,000 water conservancy projects big and small, increased the 1969 paddy output five-fold compared with 1967-1968. The liberated zone now has more than 50 industrial producted establishments.

The number of general education pupils is six time bigger than the enrolment in all Laos in 1954. The medical branch boasts a contingent of hundreds of doctors, physicians and pharmacists, and a contingent of sanitarians of thousands of members as against a few doctors for the entire country under French domination.

The national united front against US aggression for national salvation has been uncreasingly strengthened and developed.

The alliance between the Lao Patriotic Front and the Lao patriotic neutralist forces, and the broadening of the anti-US national front has been playing an active part in frustrating the US machiavellian political manoeuvres and vicious "peace" designs aimed at dividing undermining and wiping out the revolutionary forces and every patriotic and progressive tendency in Laos.

More than ever before, the anti-US struggle for national salvation of the Lao people under the Lao Patriotic Front's leadership has been enjoying the approval and support from the peoples throughout the world.

The Lao people's successes have contributed an important share to the Indochinesse people's common gains and driven the US and its hirehings deeper into their defensive posture thus creating new facilities for the 3 Indochinese countries' revolution (Souphanouvong's statement, June 1, 1971).

THE past 17 years have also been years of close solidarity and mutual assistance between the South Vietnamese people and the brother Lao people. This friendship has grown, as Prince Souphanouvong has put it "so great that it beggars all ode or hymn in its praise."

The South Vietnamese people wholeheartedly thank the Lao people and Patriotic Front for their warm support for their liberation cause and pledge to constantly stand shoulder to shoulder with them and the Cambodian brother people to determinedly fight and sweep the US imperialists off the Indochinese peninsula. They sincerely wish the brother Lao people ever greater successes in their national liberation effort so as to build a peaceful, independent, neutral democratic, unified and prosperous Laos.

A Southern LAF armoured unit

September ground-swells in the United States

THE impact of the war of aggression in Viet Nam has been deeply felt in the United States.

ADMISSIONS

On Sept. 14, in a gathering of the New Democratic Coalition, Senator Birch Bayh declared: When Nixon was campaigning for the Presidency, he said he had a plan to restore peace, but three years have elapsed and the war is still going on, tens of thousands of GIs are still in South Viet Nam, American troops are taking part in ground operations, the United States is continuing bombing and strafing North Viet Nam and squandering billions of dollars in the Viet Nam war. Even without the aggressions against Laos and Cambodia, it is clear to everybody that Nixon has no plan for peace.

Birch Bayh went on to complain: The US war of aggression in Viet Nam is detrimental to the US society and, in particular, has generated the most serious dissensions ever within the United States since the Civil War.

The following facts and figures limited to some aspects only—which have been admitted by US ruling circles vividly substantiate Birch Bayh's statement:

On Sept. 8, Secretary of the Treasury John Connally warned the House Appropriations Committee that the US budget for fiscal 1971—72 would show a deficit ranging from 27 to 28 billion dollars (the deficit for 1970—71 was 23,242 billion and that for 1969—70 was 2,845 billion).

On Sept. 22 the US Department of Labour acknowledged that in August 1971 the cost of living in the United States increased by 0,4 percent compared with July 1971 (twice the rate of June 1971). Indices of prices were 122.21 in August against 100 in 1967, which means that a commodity costing 10 dollars four years ago now costs 12.21 dollars. The hike in the cost of living is due to the spiralling inflation. Up to mid—July 1971, the amount of bank-notes circulating in the United States reached the record figure of 226.7 billion dollars (*AP*).

As regards the US armed forces, none other than Abrams, the US commander in Viet Nam, recognized that they are being plagued by racial discrimination, drug indulgence and anti-war feeling which are spreading among the US troops in South Viet Nam (*Washington Post* Sept 16). The paper reported the same state of things not only in South Viet Nam, but also in all places at home and abroad where GIs are stationed, either in West Germany, or in the United States. This is strongly upsetting the mind of the House Armed Forces Committee, and, according to *UPI*, Chairman Herbert of this committee was of the opinion that the US armed forces in general and the US army in particular are no doubt confronted with an unusual challenge to their very existence.

GROUND SWELLS

The American people's war protest movement is preparing for new drives. Nixon's new econmic policy has given it an impetus among the American workers and labourers.

On Sept. 6, at a rally in NewYork, representatives of progressive Trade Unions. Viet Nam veterans and civil rights militants strongly condemned the US immoral war in Viet Nam, opposed Nixon's new economic measures and demanded an immediate troop withdrawal from Indochina, a greater welfare fund and guaranteed employment for workers. 154 trade union leaders held press conferences in Washington, Chicago, Detroit, Los Angeles, Mineapolis, etc. and appealed to the American workers to participate in nation-wide anti-war activities due on Oct. 13 and Nov. 11. They flayed the new economic policy of the Nixon administration as a serious challenge to the US workers' movement and a move aimed at shifting the war burden onto the working people.

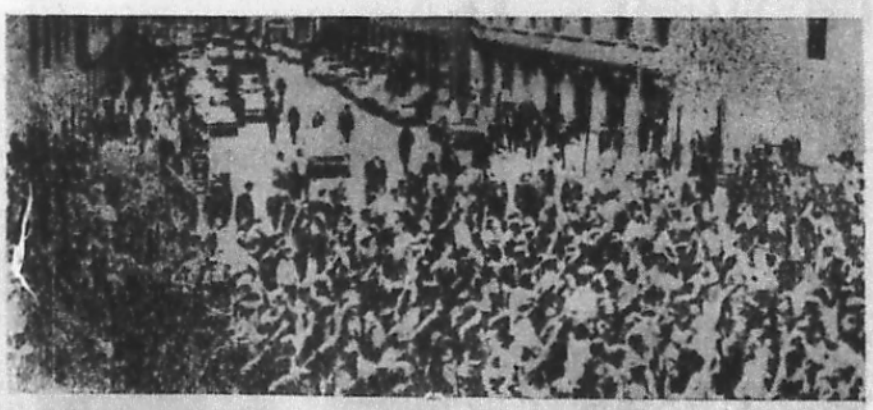
Demonstrations by Detroit workers on Sept. 23 and Portland inhabitants on Sept. 25, anti-war actions at Fort Campbell by 200 GIs of Brigade 173 just back from Viet Nam, the petition-signing drive by San Diegoans, the strike by hundreds of sailors on board the cruiser "McCormic" against the return to Viet Nam of the aircraft carrier "Constellation," and finally the unanimous adoption by the Los Angeles City Council of a resolution urging Nixon to fix a timelimit for total troop withdrawal from Indochina before the year's end — all this is indicative of the uninterrupted activity of the anti-war protest movement.

On the other hand, many congressmen have strongly exposed the Saigon elections as moves to prolong Nixon's war and achieve US neo-colonialism in South Viet Nam. They pointed out that the administration's present war in Viet Nam has become a war to perpetuate a corrupt regime (Adlai Stevenson); they demanded that an end be put to military and economic aid to the Saigon stooges (W. Jackson.) They underlined that by clinging to fascist dictator Nguyen Van Thieu, Nixon must bear all responsibility for the continuation of the bloody aggression in Viet Nam (Birch Bayh); and on Sept. 28, Senator Edward Kennedy said that the quickest way to bring home US prisoners of war was to start negotiations on the basis of the 7-point peace proposal of the RSVN Provisional Revolutionary Government...

ON Sept. 27, in putting forward once again an amendment to the draft bill on total troop withdrawal from South Viet Nam within 6 months, Senator Mansfield declared that, he no longer wants his hands to be stained with blood. The Americans have to face their own problems at home. They are immersed in difficulties. All these problems have as direct or indirect cause the Viet Nam war. It is at the origin of the deep division within the American society. It is an ulcer in the body of the United States. This tumour can be cured and the internal problems settled only by withdrawing all US troops not only from South Viet Nam, but also from Laos, Cambodia and Thailand.

Mansfield's statement only confirmed what had been on the mind of everybody. There is every indication that the September ground swells in the United States will grow into tidal waves in the days to come.

DAI LIEN



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New Yorkers demonstrating in Wall Street against the US aggressive war in Viet Nam and Indochina

GDR big strides in construction

SINCE its founding 22 years ago, the German Democratic Republic has scored splendid achievements in national construction.

In this short period, her industry has rapidly grown into a modern one and many important industrial branches have seen the light of day such as ship building, oil refinery, electronics and modern metallurgy. At present she is one of the ten most industrialized countries in the world.

In the last few years, its industrial output has been regularly rising by at least 6 per cent. In the first ten months of 1970, this output equalled that of the whole of Germany in 1936.

Parallel with industrial growth, its agriculture has made notable progress. In 1970, per capital productivity was five times that of 1950. Electrification and automation have been applied in most of the links in the agricultural chain. Today this agriculture is capable of meeting the ever growing need of the country in foodstuffs.

The rapid economic development of the GDR has been greatly instrumental in the improvement of the people's living standard. The 5-workday-week has been enforced since the fourth 5-year plan. In 1970, the minimum wages in such branches as trade, public health, education were rationally raised. The advance of the GDR has been viewed with alarm by the West German revanchists and their US masters. Though they have left no stone unturned to check and sabotage it she has been steadily embarking on the socialist road; its people have enlisted the firm support of the socialist camp and progressives in the world. On their part, the South Vietnamese people staunchly back the East German people's legitimate effort to gain *de jure* recognition of her nationhood, sovereignty and territorial integrity by the West German government.

THE GDR Party and government have unceasingly backed the just position and sensible proposals for a settlement of the Viet Nam problems of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation and the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam. The 8th Convention of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany held recently made the following statement: "Prompted by a feeling of close comradeship, we side with the PRG of the RSVN and all the patriots in South Viet Nam. We are constantly behind you in your fight to free your land totally from the aggression of foreigners and their Saigon lackeys in order to achieve independence and freedom and shape yourselves your destiny."

We are much moved by that fraternal support and assistance and wholeheartedly thank the GDR people for this.

On this memorable day of the German Democratic Republic, the South Vietnamese people, the NFL and the PRG of the RSVN wish the Socialisty Unity Party of Germany, the government and people of the GDR greater successes in national construction. May the friendship and militant solidarity between the South Vietnamese and German people last for ever! May the righteous struggle of the GDR people be crowned with brilliant success!

[redacted]

- *A communique on the talks held on September 28 by the CPSU and the Japanese Communist Party visiting delegation pointed out that, to step up support for the heroic struggle of the peoples of Viet Nam, Laos and Cambodia is the most important common task of all anti imperialist forces. The two Parties realize the necessary to push up to maximum the movement of international solidarity to provide effecitive aid to the fighting peoples of Viet Nam, Laos and Cambodia.*
- *An open letter signed by 350 French personalities comprising professors, intellectuals, trade union officials and city mayors etc... was sent to Nixon to urge the US government to engage in serious discussion of the RSVN PRG's 7-point proposal at the Paris Conference on Viet Nam, set a deadline for the total withdrawal of all US troops from Viet Nam and Indochina and stop backing Nguyen Van Thieu.*
- *A resolution was adopted at the recent Finnish Peace Movement's annual conference in Helsinki to intensify all activities in support of the Indochinese peoples' struggle against the US aggressors. In the past six months, the Finland-Viet Nam Friendship Association has set up 12 groups in various large cities; its "Viet Nam News" bulletin first appeared in September with a 3,000 circulation; exhibitions on Viet Nam are due to open in Helsinki and in various places throughout Finland.*
- *At the September 13 in Oslo, the Norwegian Trade Unions of Mine, Transport and Sanitation passed a resolution against the US aggressive war in Viet Nam and Indochina. It made clear US setbacks in this undertaking and called upon the peoples all over the world to vigorously support three Indochinese peoples' struggle for liberation.*

SOUTH VIET NAM CENTRAL ORGAN OF THE SOUTH VIET NAM NATIONAL FRONT FOR LIBERATION